

Ches

Congleton Rural District Council.

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1915.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report for the past year 1915.

Medical Officer of HealthC. H. W.-Bennett.
Population at Census 1901	12,220
Population at Census 1911	12,845
Area in Acres... ..	40,155
Birthrate per 1,000	20·5
Deathrate per 1,000	12·23
Births registered in 1915	254
Deaths registered in 1915	178
Deaths registered in 1915, excluding Non-residents	156
Deaths under one year per 1,000 Births	86·6
Deathrate from seven principal Zymotic Diseases	·31

The whole District is divided into three Sub-districts, they are as follows :—

SANDBACH, having an area of 17,857 acres, and a population of 8,745, includes Smallwood, Odd Rode, Church Lawton, Hassall, Betchton, Wheelock, Arclid, Bradwall, Tetton, Moston and Elton.

CHURCH HULME, having an area of 14,912 acres, and a population of 3,066, includes Goostrey-cum-Barnshaw, Blackden, Twemlow, Cranage, Leese, Church Hulme, Swettenham, Kermincham, Brereton-cum-Smethwick and Davenport.

CONGLETON, having an area of 7,886 acres, and a population of 1,034, includes Somerford, Somerford Booths, Hulme Walfield, Newbold Astbury and Moreton-cum-Alcumlow.

Birth-rates for the Districts are :—Sandbach, 12·8 ; Church Hulme, 9·4 ; Congleton, 14·.

Infant Mortality.—22 Deaths have occurred in Infants under the age of twelve months, giving an Infant Mortality of 86·6 per 1,000 Births.

Zymotic Diseases.—There have been 4 deaths from Zymotic Disease in the District giving a death-rate of 31. The deaths were from Scarletina 2, Whooping Cough 1, and Diarrhoea 1.

Infectious Disease.—I have received 57 cases of Infectious Disease in notifications, made up as follows :—Typhoid 0, Scarletina 33, Diphtheria 16, Erysipelas 6, Ophthalmia 1, Puerperal 1.

Scarletina.—Of this disease 8 were at Astbury, 4 at Somerford, 1 at Hulme Walfield, 3 at Swettenham, 5 at Elworth, 1 at Holmes Chapel, 2 at Somerford Booths, 2 at Davenport, 1 at Moston, 1 at Bradwall, 1 Mt. Pleasant, 1 Lawton, 1 Goostrey, and 2 at Elton.

Diphtheria.—Elworth 4 cases, Mount Pleasant 2 cases, Lawton 1, Wheelock Heath 1, Rode Heath 1, Hall Green 4, and Scholar Green 3.

Smallpox.—No case occurred in the District.

Erysipelas.—6.

Puerperal Fever.—One case occurred attended by a Midwife living outside the District. I communicated with the M.O.H. where she resided and he took steps to have her disinfected so that she could not carry the contagion further.

Anthrax.—Only one case was reported to me in a Cow. The carcass was cremated and the premises thoroughly disinfected.

Isolation Hospital.—West Heath was not quite so full as last year. 27 cases of Infectious Disease were removed there, the remainder, 21, being isolated at home.

The Arclid Smallpox Hospital was not required though it is kept in perfect readiness.

Water Supply.—This year 1915 was a year when new works, unless absolutely necessary, could not be carried out for obvious reasons. The Water Supply at Holmes Chapel was satisfactory, and with the help of water from the mains at Lawton, Rode Heath was well supplied in the Summer.

Sewage.—The Irrigation Grounds and different Outfall Works have been inspected and found working satisfactorily, except the works at Elworth which is receiving due attention.

Cowsheds and Dairies Act.—118 Milk Sellers are on the Register, and their premises have been visited and examined. Six complaints were found and all have been remedied.

Tuberculosis Act.—10 cases have been reported to me. I visit every case and advise as to the best means of preventing any spread of the disease.

Factory and Workshops' Act.—There are 76 on the Register and these have been inspected from time to time. Two Notices were served on the occupiers owing to insufficient sanitary accommodation, one was remedied the other is pending.

Midwives' Act.—The Midwives have been inspected several times this year and they have done their work satisfactorily. There is a great shortage of Midwives at one or two places but during this war I don't see any chance of an increase in their number.

Pollution of Rivers.—I cannot say the pollution from Birchenwood has improved at all though they are trying their best to prevent it.

Wholesomeness of Food.—The food sold in the District is good and no food has been found unfit for consumption.

Housing and Town Planning Act.—15 New Houses have been built at Elworth. 500 Houses have been inspected under this Act. No houses were considered unfit for habitation and no

closing orders were served. 55 Houses have been reported to the Council for various reasons, 38 have been put into a good state and 17 are pending.

Slaughter Houses.—These have been inspected frequently and found quite in order and clean. One has been done away with leaving 8 in the District.

Scavenging.—The Contractors' have done their work very satisfactorily.

Lodging Houses.—There is one Registered Lodging House, this is frequently inspected and always found free of any complaint.

Bakehouses.—There are no underground Bakehouses in the District, and all are kept clean and healthy.

School Closure.—Several Schools were closed more than usual. There has been a great deal of sickness amongst the scholars. The Infant School at Woodcock Wells was closed in February and the whole school closed from Nov. 7th to 28th through Chicken Pox and Mumps.

Rode Heath was closed in October for two weeks owing to Diphtheria.

Swettenham Schools were closed in April owing to Scarletina, and again in November and December for Measles.

Goostrey Schools closed from Nov. 12th to Dec. 6th owing to Whooping Cough.

Astbury Schools closed from Nov. 24th to Dec. 20th for Measles.

Brereton Schools closed from Nov. 24th to Dec. 20th for Measles.

Lawton Park Schools closed from March 2nd to 13th for Influenza and again from September 15th to October 12th to Measles.

Hulme Walfeld closed in April owing to Scarlet Fever and again in May for Scarlet Fever.

Byley Schools were closed in May for Measles and Whooping Cough.

The Schools were all disinfected thoroughly each time closure was applied.

Inspector's Report.—The Inspector reports that he has made 2,810 visits throughout the District, answered 720 letters, reported to the Council 102 nuisances, and that he has regularly inspected the whole of the District. He has visited and kept under observation every case of Infectious Disease and disinfected every house on recovery of the patient or on his removal to the Sanitorium, that he has inspected 48 Canal Boats and found 3 infringements, one of which was for want of painting, the other two the sexes were not properly separated. Notices were served on the owners and these defects were remedied. He has read the Water Meters every Quarter, and has put in as much time as he could in inspecting houses under the Housing and Town Planning Act.

C. H. WENTWORTH-BENNETT,

28/1/16.

M.O.H.

CONGLETON RURAL DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1915 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Uncor-rected Number	Nett.		Number	Rate.	of Non-resi-dents regist'rd in the District	of Resi-dents not regist'rd in the District	Under 1 year of age.		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate.					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate.
1910	12845	304	304	24.87	169	13.83	18	3	30	98	154	12.6
1911	12845	304	304	23.6	142	11	27	12	15	49.3	137	10.7
1912	12845	253	253	19.69	198	15.4	26	8	28	110.6	180	14
1913	12845	321	321	24.9	175	13.6	26	16	20	82.6	165	12.8
1914	12845	299	297	23.2	175	14.1	25	7	17	56.8	157	12.2
1915	12845	254	254	20.5	169	13.1	22	9	22	86.6	156	12.33

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) 40,155.

Total population at all ages, 12,845.

CONGLETON RURAL DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1915.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.			TOTAL CASES REMOVED to Hospital.	
	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	Sandbach District.	Church-Hulme District.		Congl'ton Sub-District.
Small-pox												
Cholera												
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	16		5	9	1	1					16	10
Erysipelas	6			2	1					1	5	
Scarlet Fever	33		4	19	10				16	7	10	14
Typhus Fever												
Enteric Fever												
Relapsing Fever												
Continued Fever												
Puerperal Fever												
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1					1					1	
Polionmyelitis												
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1								1		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis												
Other forms of Tuberculosis												
Totals		1	9	30	12	2	1	2				

Isolation Hospital : West Heath Sanatorium and Arclid Small-pox Hospital, both provided by the Congleton R.D.C.

CONGLETON RURAL DISTRICT.

**Death registered during the Calendar Year 1915 classified by
age and cause.**

CAUSES OF DEATH.	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.									TOTAL DEATHS WHETHER OF "RESIDENTS" OR "NON- RESIDENTS" IN INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 25 yrs.	25 and under 45 yrs.	45 and under 65 yrs.	65 and up- wards	
Enteric Fever...										
Small-pox ...										
Measles ...										
Scarlet Fever...	2			1	1					
Whooping Cough ...	1	1								
Diphtheria and Croup ...										
Influenza ...	4	1							3	1
Erysipelas ...	1								1	1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)...	9				2	1	4	1	1	3
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	2			2						
Other Tuberculous Diseases .	3			1		1	1			
Cancer, malignant disease ...	12						1	5	6	2
Rheumatic Fever ...	2				1	1				
Meningitis ...										
Organic Heart Disease ...	21					3	3	6	9	3
Bronchitis ...	8	2							6	4
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	9	1	2	1		1		2	2	2
Other diseases of respiratory organs										
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	1	1								
Appendicitis and Typhilitis ...	1					1				
Cirrhosis of Liver ...										
Alcoholism ...	1								1	
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	3						1	2		2
Puerperal Fever ...										
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...										
Congenital Debility & Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	13	12	1							
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ...	5				2	1	2			
Suicide ...	2						2			
Other Defined Diseases ...	31	4		1	2	1	3	6	4	4
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...	25								25	9
Totals ...	156	22	3	6	8	10	17	22	68	31

CONGLETON RURAL DISTRICT.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1915.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months & under 6 months.	6 months & under 9 months.	9 months & under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Small-pox										
Chicken-pox										
Measles										
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping Cough						1				1
Diphtheria and Croup										
Erysipelas										
Tuberculous Meningitis... ..										
Abdominal Tuberculosis										
Other Tuberculous Diseases										
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)										
Convulsions	1	1				1		1		4
Laryngitis							2			2
Bronchitis										
Pneumonia (all forms)									1	1
Diarrhoea							1			1
Enteritis										
Gastritis										
Syphilis										
Rickets										
Suffocation, overlying										
Injury at Birth										
Atelectasis										
Congenital Malformations	4					1				5
Premature Birth	5									5
Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus..			1	1						2
Other Causes							1			1
	10	1	1	1		3	4	1	1	22

Nett Births registered during the calendar year : Legitimate, 254.

„ Deaths „ „ „ Legitimate Infants, 22.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

GENERAL ORDER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD

(MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH & INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES) December 13th, 1910.

TABULAR STATEMENT of Inspector of Nuisances for the Year ending December 31st, 1915.

A		B				C		
Number and Nature of Inspections made.		Number.	Number of Notices served.		Result of Service of Notices.			
			Statutory	Informal.	Notice complied with.	Remaining in hand.	Prosecutions. Instituted. Pending.	
1.	Dwelling Houses (general inspections)	2240	1	101	79	23	Nil.	
2.	Cellar Dwellings	Nil.						
3.	Back-to-Back Houses	Nil.						
4.	Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c.	Nil.						
5.	Courts, Yards, Passages	Nil.						
6.	Privy-Middens, Earth or Pail Closets	276						
7.	Cesspools	not known						
8.	House Drainage	not known						
9.	Ditches, Watercourses, &c.	not known						
10.	Offensive Accumulations	not known						
11.	The Keeping of Animals (P.H.A., 1875, S. 91 (3))	not known						
12.	Offensive Trades	not known						
13.	(a) Slaughterhouses (Public)	Nil.						
	" (Private)	8						
	(b) Other Places where Food is produced or sold...	4						
14.	Piggeries	Several						
15.	(a) Dairies	10						
	(b) Cowsheds	108	1	5	6		Nil.	
	(c) Milkshops	1						
16.	(a) Factories	3						
	(b) Workshops	52						
	(c) Workplaces	10						
	(d) Outworkers' Premises	Nil.						
17.	Bakehouses (Overground)	11						
	" (Underground)	Nil.						
18.	Common Lodging Houses	1						
19.	Houses let in Lodgings	4						
20.	Smoke Observations	Nil.						
21.	Canal Boats	48	Nil.	3	3			
22.	Infectious Disease Inquiries and Revisits	130						
23.	Miscellaneous							
Totals		2906	2	109	88	23		

(Signed) C. H. WENTWORTH-BENNETT.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Tabular Summary of Sanitary Work during 1915.

CONGLETON RURAL DISTRICT.

I. Adoptive Acts.

Which of the undernamed Acts is now in force in your District ?

1. Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, Part III. Yes.
2. Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907. No.
Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890.
3. Other Adoptive Acts. —

II. Bye-Laws and Regulations.

State subject matter of any new Bye-laws or Regulations brought into force during 1915. A copy of any new Bye-laws or Regulations would be acceptable. No new Bye-laws

III. Milk Supply.

					Number inspected during 1915.
1.	Number of Registered Premises at close of 1915 :				
	(a)	Diaries	...	7	7
	(b)	Cowsheds	...	108	108
	(c)	Milkshops	...	1	1
2.	Number of Notices served for non-compliance with Regulations.				
	6.				
3.	Number of Legal Actions taken for non-compliance with Notices, &c. Nil.				

IV. Food Inspection.

1. Is this systematically carried out in your District ? No.
2. Number of Slaughterhouses in your District (a) Public. Nil.
(b) Private. 8.
3. Number of inspections made of Slaughterhouses during 1915.
(a) Public. Nil.
(b) Private. Monthly or oftener.
4. Are systematic inspections made of premises other than
Slaughterhouses where food is produced or sold ? If so,
please state generally nature of premises so inspected. No.

V. Water Supply.

1. Have any extensions been carried out during 1915 ? If so, please append brief note. No.
2. Number of Samples analysed during 1915—
Chemically, 4.
Bacteriologically, Nil.
3. Are any, and if so what, parts of your District still without a proper supply of water ?
Mow Cop and Mount Pleasant, Mow Bank, Hassall Green, Smallwood and part of Astbury.

VI. Pollution of Rivers and Streams.

In your opinion are any Rivers or Streams in your District polluted, or likely to be polluted at times, by any of the following ? :—

Source of Pollution.	River or Stream concerned.
(a) Public Sewage Disposal Works. Elworth.	(a) Source of the Wheelock.
(b) Private Sewage Disposal Works.	(b) Nil.
(c) Solid matter (accumulations of cinders, refuse, sludge, &c.)	(c) Source of the Wheelock.
(d) House Drainage... ..	(d) Nil.
(e) Manufacturing waste or effluents	(e) Source of the Wheelock. The pollution from Birchenwood Colliery still continues.

VII. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

1. Specify any new works of sewerage carried out during 1915. None.
2. Are any, and if so what, parts of your District still without a proper system of sewers ? Thurlwood, Mow Bank, Wheelock and Holmes Chapel.
3. By what system is sewage disposed of ? Septic Tank, Bacteria Beds and Land Filtration.
4. Have there been any complaints to your knowledge during 1915 as to the Disposal Works ? Yes. Elworth not working properly.
5. Have any alterations or extensions taken place to your knowledge in the disposal of works during 1915. No.

VIII. Scavenging.

1. By whom is this carried out ? Contractors.
2. Approximate number of the following in your District at the end of 1915 :—

	How frequently Scavenged.
(a) Midden-prives ... Not known ...	Fortnightly.
(b) Dry Ashpits ... Not known ...	Weekly.
(c) Pail Closets ... 276 ...	„
(d) Dustbins ... 337 ...	„
(e) Cesspools	Cleaned by Occupier.
3. Is the present system in your opinion inadequate in any respect ? No.

IX. Housing.

1. Number of new Houses built during 1915. 15.
2. Number of Dwelling-Houses inspected under s. 17 Act of 1909. 269.
3. Number of such Houses considered unfit for habitation. None.
4. Number of representations made to Local Authority. 55.
5. Number of Closing Orders made by Local Authority. Nil.
6. Number of Houses where defects remedied *without* closing orders being made. 38.
7. Number of Houses where defects remedied *after* closing orders made. Nil.
8. Estimated or ascertained number of Houses within limits of Rent in s. 14 of Act of 1909. 2298.
9. Number of such Houses in respect of which notice was served during 1914. 57.
10. Number of such Houses closed after notice. None.
11. Number of such Houses where Local Authority has executed necessary repairs, &c. None.
12. Approximate number of Back-to-back Houses in District. Nil.
13. Approximate number of Cellar Dwellings in District. None.

X. Town Planning.

Has any scheme of Town Planning been put forward during 1915 for your District or any part thereof? If so, please make brief note of (a) part of District covered by Scheme. None.

XI. Prevention of Consumption.

Kindly state action taken during 1915 under following heads :—

1. Sanitary Inspection of Patients' Houses. Yes.
2. Disinfection of ditto. Yes.
3. Distribution of Circulars containing advice. Yes.
4. Action to prevent Spitting. Leaflets and Spittoons provided.
5. Supply of Disinfectant. Yes.
6. Supply of Sputum-flasks, Paper Handkerchiefs, &c. Sputum-flask.
7. Visitation by Nurses or Health Visitors. No.

C. H. WENTWORTH-BENNETT, M.O.H.

29/1/1916.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

MIDWIVES ACT, 1902.

**REPORT of Medical Officer of Health of District for the period
extending from January 1st to December 31st, 1915.**

CONGLETON RURAL DISTRICT.

1. Number of Midwives in the County Register residing in the District. 12.
2. Do all these Midwives keep case books or registers, and are they fairly well kept ?
Yes.
3. Have they all a supply of forms for sending for medical help, notifying the death of mother or child, notifying still-births, and notifying cases of laying out the dead ? Yes.
4. Are there any Midwives who cannot write, and if so—
 - (a) How are their case books or registers kept ? Yes, by their children or neighbours.
 - (b) How are their notifications made ? By the patient's friends.
5. What is the total number of cases attended by registered Midwives during the period under review ? 123.
6. How many records of sending for Medical help have been received. 9.
7. How many death (a) of mothers (b) of infants which have occurred before the attendance of a Medical Practitioner have been notified by Midwives ?
(a) Nil. (b) Nil.
8. How many notifications have been received of Midwives having laid out a dead body ?
One.
9. (a) Have your Sanitary Authority made any Rule prohibiting the laying out of dead bodies by Midwives ? If so, please append a copy. No.
(b) In such cases has adequate cleaning and disinfection (see Rule 5) been carried out ? Yes.
10. How many still-births have been notified by Midwives ? A child is deemed to be still-born when it has not breathed or shown any sign of life after being completely born. 1.
11. How many cases of Puerperal Fever are known to have arisen in cases attended by registered Midwives ? 2.
12. How many cases of other Infectious Disease are known to have occurred in cases attended by registered Midwives ? Nil.

13. What facilities afforded in the Borough or District for the disinfection of Midwives who have been attending cases of Puerperal Fever or other infectious conditions? Disinfection at West Heath Sanatorium.
14. Are the Midwives in your District in the regular practice of (when attending confinements) :—
 - (a) Wearing clean dresses of washable material that can be boiled? Yes.
 - (b) Over this a clean washable apron or overall? Yes.
 - (c) Wearing dresses with sleeves so made that they can be tucked well above the elbows? Yes.
 - (d) Carrying bags with removable linings which can be disinfected? Yes.
 - (e) Carrying the appliances prescribed by Rule E, 2 (a) and (b)? Yes.
15. What means are in general adopted by the Midwives for disinfecting instruments and appliances? Boiling and disinfectants.
16. In how many instances have the Midwives in your District recorded the fact of having attended after the tenth day, and appending the reason therefor? Nil.
17. In how many instances have the Midwives in your District noted in their Registers of Cases the necessary facts relating to the administration of Drugs (Rule E 18)? Nil.
18. In how many instances has the conduct of a Midwife been reported to the Supervising Authority and made the subject of special inquiry? Nil.
19. Have any Midwives been suspended from practice? If so, reasons should be given. None.
20. Are the Midwives' houses or lodgings in a good sanitary condition and kept clean? Yes.
21. Is the direction of the Central Midwives Board, that the temperature and pulse should be taken and recorded in every case, systematically carried out by every Midwife? No, some Midwives are unable to do it through want of education or bad sight.
22. Are all the Midwives in your District strict in the observance of Rule E 27 (designation of Midwife on card, notepaper, brass plates, &c.)? Yes.
23. Number of inspections made by Medical Officer of Health during 1915 of Midwives' homes, appliances, registers, &c. Several, about once a Quarter.

GENERAL REMARKS.

N.B.—It is particularly requested that each Medical Officer of Health will state whether in his opinion there has been a shortage of Midwives since April 1st, 1910, after which by Section (1) 2 of the Midwives Act, 1902, no woman is allowed to attend women in childbirth habitually and for gain otherwise than under the direction of a qualified medical practitioner unless she is certified under this Act. If such a shortage has been experienced, the extent of it and the portions of the District specially affected should be noted. There is a shortage of Midwives at Goostrey, Smallwood, Mount Pleasant and Mow Cop.

C. H. WENTWORTH-BENNETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

29/1/1916.

